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National Science Foundation News: NSF Expands Studies of National Science Computer Network

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their educational pursuits. Of the 28 teacher training institutions in the state, eight offer graduate credit. It can be assumed that most teachers continue their work at these institutions, or similar out-of-state institutions, because of the structure of local salary schedules. Only four of these eight institutions (Drake University, Iowa State University, University of Iowa, and University of Northern Iowa) have professional science educators on their faculties and offer graduate credit in science education.

The results of Dr. Glass' statewide survey would seem to support the need for improving elementary and secondary education throughout the state of Iowa. More specifically, considerable emphasis should be placed upon formulating and implementing various teacher education improvement projects such as workshops and in-service institutes. Such instructional programs should help to meet the needs of those areas of the state that cannot financially support such projects.

In addition, the data provides some clues as to where significant educational problems seem to be couched. However, such problems could conceivably be brought to a clearer focus if and when a statewide Needs Assessment is implemented.

(Ed)

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATIONS NEWS

NSF Expands Studies of National Science Computer Network

A National Science Computer Network that would link scientists, engineers, and educators at both small colleges and major universities, non-profit organizations, government, and industry, with advanced computer resources is being studied by the National Science Foundation.

A National Science Computer Network would aid the researchers throughout the country and strengthen the nation's research and educational programs by providing:

- high quality computer research facilities; and
- improved access to information and to national data banks.

It is expected that the network would also help eliminate costly duplication of equipment through more effective resource sharing.

Problems facing scientists studying the network are complex issues such as network management, integration of specialized resources and services, protection of data rights, servicing of common interest user groups, and network financing. A key consideration is the establishment of common or compatible computer languages.

NSF has been sponsoring research on a National Science Computer Network and is now expanding these efforts.

The details of the program are contained in a new publication, Expanded Research Relative to a National Science Computer Network, NSF 72-16, released August 20, 1972. NSF is seeking research proposals that deal with the concept, feasibility, and problems related to a national computer network for education, research, and science information services.

During the Fiscal Year 1973, NSF plans to make awards totaling approximately \$2 million on specific problems in utilizing a national computer network.

Research Proposals related to the computer network may be submitted at any time by academic institutions, and by for-profit and non-profit organizations. Because the current focus on the program is on concept, feasibility, and design studies the Foundation will not now consider proposals to implement the network.

The computer network program is being coordinated by the Office of Computing Activities (OCA). The program is a joint effort of OCA and the NSF Office of Science Information Service.

Program Information: For additional program information contact:

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